



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region




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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Samuel Unger 
Unit Chief, TMDL Unit 2

DATE: May 5, 2006

SUBJECT: UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER CHLORIDE TMDL IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN RE-CONSIDERATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

On July 13, 2006, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will consider a proposed amendment to revise the implementation plan for the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL. Regional Board staff will provide alternatives for revising the implementation plan for Regional Board consideration. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, July 13, 2006 at 9:00 A.M., at the Santa Clarita City Hall; Council Chambers, 23920 Valencia Blvd, Santa Clarita, California.

A copy of the Staff Report for the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL Implementation Plan Re-consideration is posted on the Regional Board's web page. The web address is <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/bpaRes/bpa.html>. Please contact Yanjie Chu at 213-576-6681 or Sam Unger at 213-576-6784 with questions or to request additional copies of the staff report and related materials. At the public hearing, the public will have opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to revise the implementation plan for the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride TMDL.

Oral presentations should be summarized in writing to the extent possible. Time limitations on presentations may be imposed by the board chair. In order to review and to assess comments, the Regional Board staff must receive written comments no later than **5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2006**.

Comments should be submitted to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles California, 90013
ATTN: Yanjie Chu

California Environmental Protection Agency



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Background

The Upper Santa Clara River chloride TMDL (TMDL) became effective on May 5, 2005. On November 3, 2005, the Regional Board heard an information item on the status of the TMDL and directed staff to develop alternatives for re-consideration of the TMDL implementation schedule based on the results of the special studies. The implementation plan requires the Regional Board (Board) to review the status and results of special studies and to consider amending the TMDL schedule, establishing a site-specific objective, and revising the WQO. Specifically, Task 4 of the TMDL Implementation Schedule states that "The Regional Board, at a public hearing, will re-evaluate the schedule for Task 6 and subsequent linked tasks based on input from the TAC(s), along with Regional Board staff analysis and assessment consistent with state and federal law, as to the types of studies needed and the time needed to conduct the necessary scientific studies to determine the appropriate chloride threshold for the protection of salt-sensitive agricultural uses, and will take action to amend the schedule if there is sufficient technical justification."

The TMDL requires the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) to implement special studies and actions to reduce chloride loadings from the Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs). The TMDL Implementation Plan includes a series of four special studies to be considered by the Regional Board: Literature Review and Evaluation addressed literature from agronomic and other sources on sensitivity of avocado, strawberry and nursery crops to chloride. Based on findings from these studies, the Regional Board may consider whether revisions to the chloride water quality objectives, and/or revisions to the TMDL implementation schedule are warranted. This Item represents the first Board reconsideration of the TMDL which is scheduled 12 months after the TMDL effective date.

Staff provides four alternatives for Regional Board consideration: (1) a no-action alternative in which the Regional Board takes no action to revise the schedule, (2) an alternative that does not revise the 13-year TMDL implementation schedule but includes implementation milestones in years 6-13 of the TMDL schedule, (3) an alternative that extends the 13-year schedule, and (4) an alternative that accelerates the 13-year schedule. The proposed alternative to accelerate the implementation schedule reflects Staff's concern that the current schedule may not result in timely implementation of advanced treatment, if advanced treatment is determined to be necessary.

Based on the information and alternatives provided within this report, the Regional Board may take formal action to revise the TMDL Implementation Plan.